

# Rabies Awareness

The Wilson County Health Department (WCHD) has had multiple calls from concerned citizens regarding the recent Rabies cases and possible exposures. We are working closely with Wilson Medical Center and Wilson County Animal Enforcement on this issue.

## The Facts:

- Wilson Co has had 2 confirmed cases of rabies.
- The latest case involved a fox.
- One case was from within the city limits, the other in the county toward the Kenly area.
- WCHD **MUST** be informed of any confirmed case of rabies so that case investigation of contacts can begin immediately and treatment if needed can be initiated as soon as possible.
- Rabies is not new in Wilson County, it is found in **ALL** North Carolina Counties.

## Please pass along the following information:

- Do not feed or play with stray animals, especially non-domesticated ones. This is particularly important for children.
- Talk to children about the dangers of stray animals.
- All animal bites should be reported to Wilson County Animal Enforcement.
- Vaccinate your pets and be sure they are up to date!
- If an individual has had a potential exposure to a confirmed case:
  - Instruct individual to seek medical care at Wilson Medical Center Emergency Department immediately (call hospital to notify individual is en route)
  - Instruct to wash wound thoroughly with soap and water for 10-15 minutes if bitten or scratched.
  - Apply either 70% ethanol, tincture of aqueous solution of iodine, or providone iodine or Dakins solution ( household bleach: 3 tablespoons bleach plus ½ tsp baking soda in one liter boiled water.)

**If you notice any animal acting disoriented or not acting normal, please contact the NC Wildlife Division at 919-707-0040 or WC Animal Enforcement at 265-5971 M-F 10-4, after hours 265-8300. Do NOT attempt to catch the animal, leave this to the professionals!**